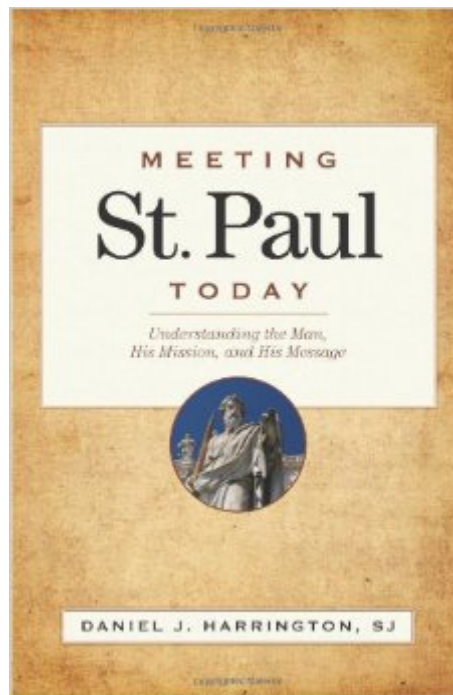


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# Meeting St. Paul Today: Understanding The Man, His Mission, And His Message



## Synopsis

A Clear and Compelling Portrait of Paul from One of the Church's Leading Scholars The teachings of St. Paul infuse just about everything Christians believe and practice, yet most people know very little about this great apostle of the Church. In *Meeting St. Paul Today*, one of the most respected scholars in the Catholic faith, Daniel Harrington, SJ, brings Paul and his teachings to life. Harrington, who writes with great admiration for the apostle and his ministry, covers three main topics in this helpful and highly readable book for any discerning Christian. First, he describes what Paul was really like, from his days as a Pharisee to his arduous years as a missionary. Second, he thoughtfully surveys the specific purpose, major points, and other compelling particulars of each epistle. Finally, he helps readers properly interpret Paul's letters through literary, historical, and theological lenses. With Father Harrington as your guide, you'll come to know Paul like never before and, as a result, to understand fully the mission to which he devoted his life and the message he proclaimed to the world.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This is a wonderful approach to St. Paul - Daniel Harrington, S.J. makes Paul and the communities to which he ministered come alive. He places Paul's writings in an understandable context. A very timely study for Pope Benedict's declared Year of St. Paul. Highly recommended for both personal and group study.

i was looking for a balanced Catholic approach to unlocking the epistles of St. Paul. Daniel Harrington's, St. Paul Today, was exactly that. Daniel Harrington is well known for his scripture scholarship and skills as a teacher to "break open" the often difficult to understand writings of Paul. Father Harrington provides a brief historical background to Paul's life and times, explains in detail the reason why Paul authored each of his epistles and makes connections for Paul to our lives today. The author provides an in-depth explanation of each epistle along with an outline of each to assist the reader in understanding "the why and the what" is contained in each of Paul's epistles. In addition, the author provides a brief overview of how biblical scholarship examines the sacred scriptures in light of the historical and literary context in which they were written. I found this book most helpful in reading the author's explanation before the Sunday readings of Paul in the liturgical cycle. In my opinion, this book would be a great place to start a study group about St. Paul's writing. I think this book is an excellent place for anyone who is looking for a place to begin understanding the writings of someone who has so greatly influenced development of Christian doctrine and theology. I highly recommend it.

This is a wonderful book for those not familiar with Paul or his writings. It will give you a very short but complete introduction to Paul. Though, it will leave you with lots of questions about Paul, it will inspire you to pursue further readings on Paul.

In the year which many Christians are celebrating as the 'Year of Paul' this book offers an excellent overview of the life, writings and contribution of the Apostle Paul. Whether the reader is a re-visit to Paul, or a first-time introduction, the book can prove readable and user-friendly. It is general but never merely superficial, and scholarly while still being eminently popular.

Great read - as a non-theologian that finds it difficult reading esoteric theology painful this book was a welcome relief. I was able to complete the book over 3 days -- it was a relatively easy read. Harrington's research is exhaustive -- I have much better understanding of Paul's letters and the socio-economic circumstances in the first century. Lastly, the book reaffirmed my faith and my admiration for St Paul. I highly recommend this book.

This book is great. It was easy to read and follow. Lots of good points made clear. I highly recommend the book.

Daniel Harrington is excellent scholar and has the ability to simplify and clarify the letters of St. Paul

This is an excellent read which bring St Paul to life as a real person, and leads the reader to consider many facets of St Paul as a person, as well as looking at what he said in different contexts. For instance, Harrington points out that Paul's letters to the fledgling Christian churches were 'spoken', rather than written. That is, dictated, so having digested this information, understanding Paul's meaning begins to become clearer. And the fact that he and the other apostles are literally carving out a new faith, and have to take a step at a time certainly explains why Paul can say on the one hand, 'women must keep silent in the assembly' (ie not chatter), and then say that there is neither male or female - does not this one sentence make total nonsense of forbidding women to become priests, bishops - indeed anything, a female pope one day for instance! If Paul were alive today, he would be astounded at the prejudices that are perpetuated in his name, including the awful marginalisation and rejection of people with homosexual orientation. If we listen to anything at all that St Paul said it would be that we should 'study to know', and 'pay attention to reading'. Pity the members of fundamentalist groups (they are not in my view real churches), do not confine themselves to these pursuits, instead of dishing out fear and judgement.

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